



May 16, 2019

Wyoming Energy Authority Update

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Wyoming Infrastructure Authority**

Wyoming Energy Authority

SF 37 creates the Wyoming Energy Authority combining existing scopes the Wyoming Infrastructure Authority (WIA), Wyoming Pipeline Authority (WPA) and the State Energy Office (SEO), plus expanding authority into additional areas. The Authority is created to:

“Diversify and expand Wyoming’s economy through improvements in the state’s electric and energy transmission infrastructure and facilitate Wyoming’s production, development and transmission of energy and associated natural resources...”

Reorganizations in Wyoming

2017 – State Construction Department created by merging School Facilities and Construction Management division

2011 – Department of Workforce Services expanded by absorbing Department of Employment

1999 – Wyoming Business Council created, absorbing Department of Commerce

1989 – Government Reorganization Act of 1989 – reorganized 79 agencies and offices into 12 principal agencies

Process

- Understand the mission and vision for the WEA established by the Governor and legislative leaders
- Identified stakeholders and requested input – over 30 meetings
- Initiated processes for merging existing entities
 - Identified areas of opportunity to streamline and consolidate functions, understanding no additional funds will be appropriated, so all expenses must be covered by identified savings.
 - Reviewed current capabilities and organization activities for redundancies across the existing entities and other state offices and programs.
 - Identified opportunities to begin transition and summarize key projects and initiatives to transfer to new WEA on July 1, 2020.
- Reviewed funding sources and levels across existing entities in consideration of FY 21-22 Budget Request

Stakeholder Input

Promotion

- Proactively promote WY resources to energy researchers & project developers
- Identify energy transitions, technology advancements & opportunities where WY can play a role
- Coordinate outreach & marketing efforts

Market & Project Development

- Encourage development of projects moving Wyoming energy resources to markets
- Support project development on inter- and intra- state infrastructure projects to eliminate price differentials
- Support projects utilizing Wyoming energy resources

Policy

- Speak with a unified voice on international & national levels
- Identify gaps in current laws & support legislative fixes to incentivize project development
- Propose and advocate for appropriate policies and statutes that will promote energy project development

Education

- Promote WY expertise, Speakers Bureau
- Host specialized events and tours (Ex: technology ready companies with venture capital)
- Provide usable energy data to developers
- Tours for legislators from WY consuming states

Support - "One Stop Shop"

- Be an impartial resource for elected leaders, communities, and stakeholders
- Assist developers in navigating WY project requirements and provide support when needed
- Provide grants, loans, funding opportunities
- Flexible & nimble to meet industry needs

Energy Roles in Wyoming

Regulatory

- Dept. of Environmental Quality
- Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
- Public Service Commission

Research, Development and Analytics

- School of Energy Resources
- Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute
- Center for Economic Geology Research

Policy and Business Development

- Wyoming Business Council
- **Wyoming Energy Authority**

Converging Activities

- University of Wyoming – School of Energy Resources
 - Interdisciplinary Energy Policy Initiative
 - Near-real-time tracking and reporting on federal and state policy developments that impact Wyoming energy sources and Wyoming stakeholders, and ;
 - a variety of targeted studies to arm Wyoming policymakers
- Wyoming Energy Policy Initiative
 - Legislature directed WIA to conduct two-year study on how to develop and implement
- Collaborative interagency activities
 - 2016 – Coal Leasing comments
 - 2020 – 45Q IRS comments
 - 2020 – Energy Corridor comments
 - 2020 – Clean Water Act Section 401 comments

State Energy Program

- Department of Energy's State Energy Program (SEP) is managed by the State Energy Office
 - Historically utilized for energy efficiency programs
- About \$350,000/per year in federal funding
 - Requires state match
- SEP opportunities
 - State Energy planning
 - Regional network development
 - Executive orders
 - Legislation and ordinances
 - Land-use plans
- Manages other State funds
 - Petroleum violation accounts
 - American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
 - Funds NREX GIS program at WYGISC

Timeline

May 15, 2019

Implementation Report due to Minerals Committee

May 16-18, 2019

Joint Minerals Committee - Gillette

August 2019

Budget request submitted to Budget Division

August 28-30, 2019

Joint Minerals Committee - Casper

September 30, 2019

Bonding Report due to Minerals Committee - If necessary, recommend additional legislative changes to WEA statute.

October 31, 2019

Wyoming Energy Strategy Report due to Minerals Committee

November 4-5, 2019

Joint Minerals Committee – Casper

December 2019/January 2020

JAC hearing on WEA budget

January/February 2020

Governor nominates WEA board members

March 2020

Wyoming Senate Confirms WEA board members, budget approved

Spring 2020

WEA board meets to hire Executive Director, develop strategic plan, approve policies and procedures, and set benefits

July 1, 2020

Existing WIA and WPA boards and offices dissolve – WEA begins operations with new board and Executive Director

Next Steps

- Combine existing WIA (five members) and WPA (two members) into single board
 - Develop strategic plan
 - Hire WEA executive director
 - Merge benefits and HR
 - Review opportunities for efficiencies and possibly enact
 - Recommend additional statutory changes if necessary
- Hire one staff person (1/2 paid by State Energy Program (SEP), ½ by existing WIA) to work with current WEO staff through July 1, 2020, at which time 100% of salary will be paid by SEP



Questions?

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